



Edgewater Historical Society & Museum

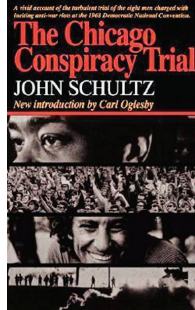
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Chicago History Book Discussion Group – Chicago 1968 Convention

The Chicago Conspiracy Trial

By John Schultz



Saturday, October 14th, 2017, 10 a.m.

Edgewater Branch, Chicago Public Library

6000 N. Broadway, Chicago 60660

Demonstrations against the Vietnam War took place in Chicago streets during and before the 1968 Democratic Convention. They were a major national and worldwide spectacle that embarrassed the nation's establishment and especially Mayor Richard J. Daley, who chose not to forget; the Federal Government tried eight men for inciting riots. The trial was a clash of cultures, politics, and lifestyles that entertained and shocked America. In what was characterized as a kangaroo court, ruled over by the mercurial Judge Julius Hoffman, they were convicted of the lesser charges after excruciating and lengthy sequestration of the jury; the defendants were eventually exonerated on appeal when it was revealed how improper had been the trial and the charges. We will have a special guest, Edgewater resident Marjorie Fritz Birch, whose mother had been on the jury and whose testimony was instrumental in overturning the convictions; she will bring some fascinating archival materials about her mother and the trial. This and other books are available at the reference desk at the library.

Coffee and Cookies

[Future meetings will be December 9, and January 13, 2018]

*The Edgewater Historical Society and the Chicago Public Library Edgewater Branch sponsor this Chicago History Book Discussion Group, meeting bi-monthly to discuss books on Chicago and local history based on the group's recommendations. The library has a certain number of copies available for circulation in advance of the discussion; to get yours, visit the Edgewater Branch's reference desk; local residents who have the book are urged to join in. Even if you don't read the book, feel free to join us. The discussion format: those who read from the book list start their comments going around the room; thereafter, those who have not read from the list can then join the discussion.

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